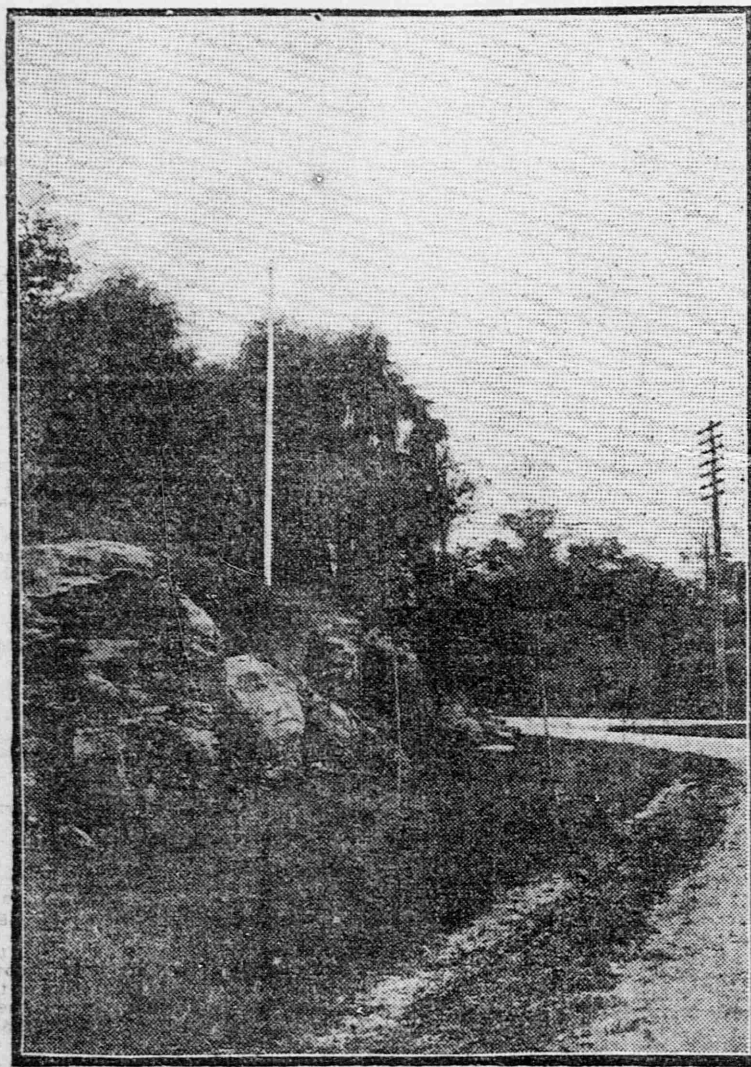


NEW THINGS STRANGE & CURIOUS

WASHINGTON'S FACE IN THE ROCK.



Many amateur photographers are visiting Mamaroneck, N. Y., to obtain snapshots of a remarkable likeness in stone of the face of George Washington, recently revealed near the old log house at the entrance to Oriental Point. Here Washington had his headquarters in the Revolution, and the place figures in Cooper's novel "The Spy" as the home of Harvey Birch.

The likeness was produced accidentally by some workmen who blasted out rock in order to widen the road. The property is situated on the Boston Post road, at the entrance to the millionaire colony at Oriental Point, and is now owned by the Perrin estate. The likeness is like a newspaper puzzle. It can be seen only at

certain angles. It is almost impossible to notice it while standing directly in front of the rocks.

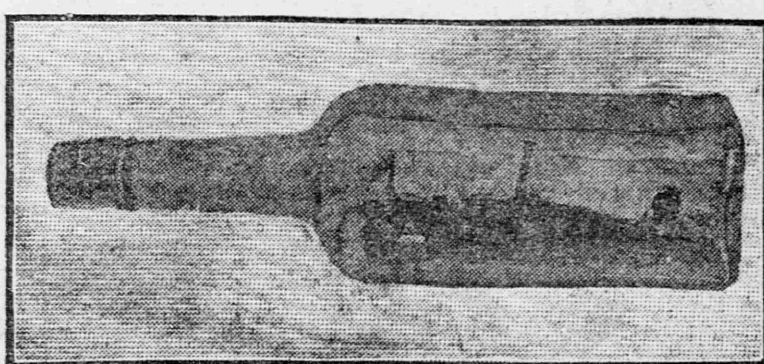
At the proper angle it is strikingly visible. The coloring of the stone helps to make the face. The mouth is outlined by a dark reddish streak. The eyes are formed by indentations and the nose by a protrusion. The neck and chin effect are almost perfect. Washington is said to have stopped at the spot and made the old house his headquarters in 1783, while he was on his way to Connecticut to meet Rochambeau for their great coup against the British. Later J. Fenimore Cooper visited the place while courting his bride, Miss Delancey, and made it famous by incorporating it in his novel.

ODD BOTTLE CAST UP BY THE SEA.

Capt. John Ketcham, of Amityville, N. Y., while fishing off the beach at Long Island saw floating recently on the water a square whisky bottle. He caught it and brought it ashore, and on close inspection was surprised to see inside the bottle a complete picture of a beach scene. It was a marvelous piece of workmanship. Evidently the maker during some period of his life had learned the art of glassblowing.

According to the design it is summer time, for the doors of the tiny cottage are open and the curtains are flying to the breeze. The tall lighthouse looms up in the foreground, the lifeboat is manned, ready for action should a signal of distress be fired from over the surging waves. A flagstaff is set in the neck of the bottle, and from it floats the Stars and Stripes, which underneath the flag is a set of code signals. Pebbles and shells are strewn about the beach.

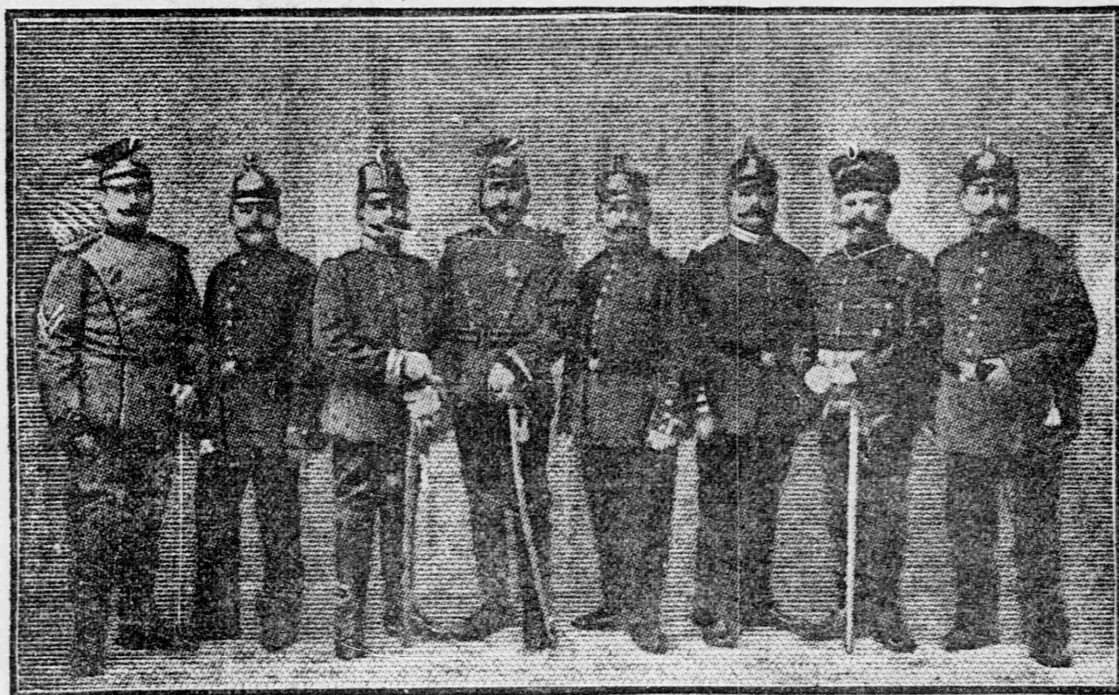
The cottages, boats, lighthouses, etc., are fastened to a groundwork of plaster of Paris, and every object used in the scene had first to be passed through the narrow neck of the bottle, which at its widest part measures but an inch in diameter. This fact alone shows what patience and skill were necessary in order to place the scene, complete as it is in each part, inside the bottle, and what a long time it would take to complete such a work of art. Captain Ketcham presented it to a lifelong friend of him—Mr. James Lush, of Amityville—who prizes it as one of his most cherished possessions.



EIGHT BROTHERS IN THE ARMY.

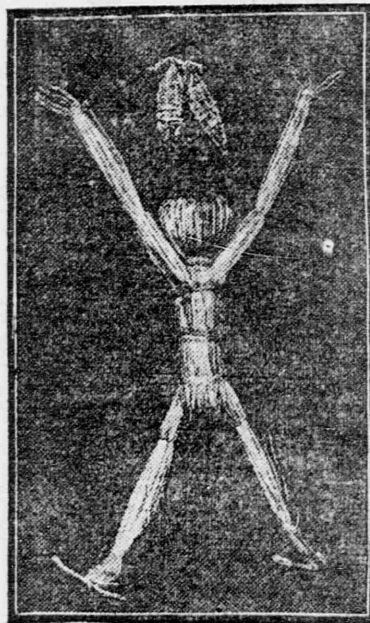
Here are eight German brothers, named Hennig, all of whom have served their time in the German army. Happening to be assembled together not long ago, they put on their uniforms and had their photographs taken.

A copy was sent to the Kaiser, who, in return, sent the widowed mother of the eight defenders of the Fatherland a gift of 300 marks.



Fetish Doll.

Upon a certain day of the year the heads of households in South Africa who wish to bring good luck to their homes make an image of straw, vaguely resembling a doll and throw it into the street. Within the body of the image a small coin is placed. The person who takes possession of this coin receives all the ill-luck of the household. The image is supposed to have the power of trans-



ferring it. The average small boy, however, is not troubled with superstitious fears and considers the finding of such coins a clear profit and extreme good luck.

And the Cock Crew.

A farmer recently entered a small hotel in Mainz with a handsome rooster under his arm, and in a few minutes a man approached and offered to buy it. They argued a good while about the price, and finally the men agreed to pay according to the number of times the cock crew, the amount of each crow being fixed at 50 cents. Thereupon the farmer imitated a clucking hen, and straightway the cock gallantly crew five times in succession. The purchaser at first refused to pay, on the ground that he had been tricked, but the spectators ridiculed him so unmercifully that he finally handed over the \$2.50.

England spends five and a half millions yearly in foreign eggs.

Two Strange Oaths.

A Chinaman was recently summoned as a witness to a court in London, and instead of being sworn in the usual manner a lighted candle was given to him, which he blew out and then said solemnly: "If I do not tell the whole truth in this case, may I be extinguished." As there was no perceptible change in him after performing this ceremony it is reasonable to suppose that he did tell the truth.

A native of India, being recently summoned as a witness in an Australian court, informed the magistrate that he did not believe in the usual oath and that his testimony would be useless unless he could swear by the waters of the Ganges. The magistrate was nonplussed, but the interpreter, with a smile, left the court and returned in a few minutes with a glass full of water. "Is that water from the Ganges?" asked the astonished judge. "No," replied the interpreter, "but I'll tell him that it is, and he'll certainly believe me." He was right. The Indian swore by the holy water, never dreaming that it had been obtained from a nearby pump.

A Difficult Problem.

Those long-suffering individuals who stand at the borders of Uncle Sam's dominions and look after the collecting of customs and duties between here and Mexico are "up against it," in schoolboy language. In order to find out the exact amount payable in Mexican money, according to the latest dictum of the finance minister, they must multiply one-half of the duty computed at the prevailing rate of 24 1/4, the rate of exchange for gold, and divide the product by 100.

This reduction of United States currency to Mexican money by so long and tortuous a route reminds one of childhood days of wrestling with "reduction to lowest terms," and all the wrinkles that grew in one's tired brain during that agitating, aggravating period of the school curriculum.

Newspapers in Egypt.

In no country has the spread of journalism during the last half century been more marked than in Egypt. One hundred and twenty periodicals are now published there, of which eighty-seven are printed in Arabic, among the latter being thirty political journals, seven news papers, ten religious magazines, seven legal journals, five medical journals, two agricultural papers, two women's papers, one journal devoted to Free Masonry, and two comic journals. Many of these journals are very well printed and have a large circulation.

Candle Crowned.

In Sweden, on St. Lucia's Day, December 13, young ladies dressed in white and crowned with chaplets of lighted candles visit the houses of the poor, bringing food in wooden bowls.

This pretty and practical custom is of great antiquity, and, like other old customs, appears to be of mixed Christian and pagan origin. The name Lucia means luminous. St. Lucia was a Christian



martyr, to whose head a Roman prefect ordered lighted candles to be fastened, but she was not injured by the flames, and so was put to the sword.

On the other hand, Lucia may be considered as a translation of Berchta, "the shining one," of old Germanic mythology. She is also called Holda, and is an incarnation of Freya, the sun goddess, the consort of Wotan.

An American has invented an envelope which records any attempt to tamper with its contents. The flap is imbued with some chemical composition which, when operated upon by a dampening process or any other means of penetrating to its inclosure, records the transaction by causing the words "Attempt to open" to appear. It is thought that the inquisitive will think twice before pursuing their researches in face of such an invention.

"CUBAN" NEWSBOY.



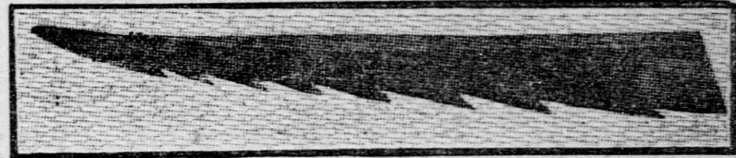
Here is the newsboy of Havana. He is not very young nor very active. In fact, our newsboys will keep body and soul together. Why ask for money in life is the maximum in Spanish lands.

HONEY BEE'S WEAPON.

No one looking at a honey bee as it wings its way from flower to flower would imagine that it is equipped with such a powerful weapon as is portrayed in the accompanying picture, and yet the microscope shows that it is.

Thanks to the microscope, moreover, we now know clearly why the bee, as a rule, loses its sting whenever it inserts it into an object. Naturalists have explained that the reason why the sting generally is broken off and remains in the wound is because it is furnished with a barb, which prevents it from being drawn back to its original position. The exact location and strength of this barb, however, were not clearly known until the microscope revealed them.

From the picture we see that the sting bears a close resemblance to a large and strong saw, and is furnished not with one, but with several barbs, which effectually serve to retain it in any object into which it is driven.



OLD MEXICAN VASE.

Among the strange and valuable objects which have been recently installed in the Mexican Hall of the American Museum of Natural History, of which Marshall H. Saville is curator, is a wonderful terra cotta jar, designed and decorated in imitation of a turkey. This is considered the most magnificent specimen of ancient American ceramics so far discovered.

Besides the striking and artistic turkey-head handle, the most extraordinary feature of the jar is its ornamentation of solid gold leaf, with which it was profusely decorated in former times, many layers of which still remain on the jar. It is considered to be a priceless example, illustrating the culture and workmanship of that mysterious civilization which flourished a thousand years ago in Mexico.

The jar is thought to have been a funeral or votive offering, which was one of the essential mortuary rites of the people of that time. Its age cannot be accurately stated, but it probably reaches back for 1,000 years or more. It was found by Carl Lumholtz during one of his exploring expeditions. It came to light while digging in a private garden in the City of Tepec, which had evidently been in remote times the site of some temple or wealthy burial place.

Two skeletons were unearthed. Around the neck of one was found twenty-six balls of solid gold, also a large breast-plate ornament of gold.



Crude sugar of the new Cuban crop, which is a large one, is being sold at 2 1/2 cents a pound. A French scientist has cheapened the production of liquid air by half, so that its use in the arts may now be profitable.

REMARKABLE PHOTOS OF BIRD FLIGHT.



When an eagle is actually soaring in the air its appearance is far different from the pictures which the artist usually makes of him. When he first takes flight and starts upward he spreads his wings as the painter generally depicts him when high in the air, but after he has reached a sufficient elevation and wishes to travel in a horizontal direction he takes the position which is shown in the accompanying photograph, apparently forming himself into a bunch.

This picture was taken from the top of a high hill with a camera which operates in a thousandth part of a second. The shutter was snapped just as the bird was passing the photographer. As will be noted, its shape causes it really resemble two birds, but this appearance is produced by the position of the left wing. The other photograph was taken of a bird just as it left the post on which it had been perched, the camera catching it at a height of about ten feet in the air.



The newest cure for anemia is to take the sufferer up in a captive balloon and let him stay at a certain altitude for two hours. Half a dozen ascents of this kind during as many weeks will effect a marvelous cure, and are equal to a three-month sojourn at a health resort.

One hundred and seven thousand tons of peanuts were bought at Marseilles in 1902 for use in making olive oil soap.

There is now a settlement containing 600 persons on the top of the Mount of Olives.